

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph appearing at page 9, lines 26 and 27 as follows:

--4. Generating data statements 204 relating to the mess statement, and optionally using the data statements to refine the mess statements;--

Amend the paragraph appearing at page 11, lines 1-9 as follows:

### --7.1.2 Initiating the IOD™ Process

A user interface screen 400 suitable for use in initiating the IOD™ Process is shown in Figure 4. Screen 400 includes a page title 401 and input fields for entry of information relating to the users. Instruction 402 requests the user to enter his or her name in name field 403. The screen may also include other fields, such as a "role" field (for identification of participant(s), facilitator(s), owner(s) and users playing multiple roles). In the embodiment shown in ~~Figure 3~~ Figure 4, the interface screen has an instruction 404 directing the user to activate the "owner" button 405 to indicate that the user is an owner. Other such fields or buttons can be used to indicate whether the user is a participant and/or owner, or a combination of participant, facilitator and/or owner.--

Amend the paragraph appearing at page 11, lines 21-33 as follows:

--The system is programmed to access the information stored in the foregoing steps and display output indicative of the information on the display units of the user interface computers and/or on a centralized display unit, preferably so that multiple or all users can view the aggregated information in a central location. In Figure 4, the aggregated information is displayed in table form 407 on the user interface screen 400, with a user column 408, an owner column 409 and a facilitator column 410. Columns 409 and 410 indicate[[s]] that user 1 is a facilitator and user 2 is an owner. It will be appreciated that information can be displayed on the user interface screens of the invention in any of a wide variety of textual and graphical formats, such as flow charts, ven diagrams, and other formats. Moreover, color, special icons or other textual or graphical effects may be used to identify answers, so that everything entered by the user is displayed in the idnetifying color or with an identifying icon or other textual or graphical

identifier. Alternatively, some or all information may be displayed in a manner, which maintains the anonymity of the user.--

Amend the paragraph appearing at page 16, lines 15-22 as follows:

**--7.1.5 Generating a Problem Statements**

In this phase of the IOD™ session, user(s) use the miscellaneous facts, data, and relevant attributes pertaining to the mess staement (i.e., the data statements) and the mess statement as stimuli to identify problem statements. In other words, the user(s) now have a goal (as representated by the mess tatement), and a picture of the state of the art (as represented by the data statements); the participants can now generate problem statements by indicating problems in the state of the art which appear to participant(s) to prevent or hinder the attainment of the goal. Problem statements are suitably phrased in the form of "How to . . ." (H2) statements.--

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